

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 4 and 5 to correct errors of omission introduced in the Examiner's Amendment as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous listings and versions of claims.

1. (original) An applicator of an automatic delivery type comprising a raw-ink reservoir allowing the internal flow of ink filled therein; an ink absorber for controlling the excessive flow of ink in the ink reservoir; and an application body for applying ink with an ink flow path for introducing the ink in the ink reservoir branched out into two flow paths, an ink flow path on the application body side, and an ink flow path on the ink absorber side, wherein, with the application body facing downward, an application body's flow tube whose inside is used as an ink flow path on the application body side is arranged on the lower side relative to an ink connecting opening, as an exit of the ink flow path, of the ink reservoir, while a double tube consisting of an inner tube whose inside is used as an ink flow path on the ink absorber side and an outer tube for ventilation is arranged on the upper side relative to the ink connecting opening, wherein:

in the inside of the inner tube the ink absorber is arranged and an air intake/exhaust annulus is formed,

the air intake/exhaust annulus is connected to an outside air opening which is connected to the outside circumference of the application body via the outer tube for ventilation by a roundabout way,

the ink absorber is divided into two so that it communicates with the ink in the ink reservoir only in the ink connecting opening, and

in the ink flow path the relation, $A < B < C$, is held, where "A" represents the density (or capillary force) of the ink absorber in the large-diameter portion of the inner tube, which is the rear portion of the flow path on the ink absorber side, "B" represents the density (or capillary force) of the capillary member arranged in the small-diameter portion of the inner tube, which is the front portion of the flow path on the ink absorber side, and "C" represents the density (or capillary force) of the capillary member arranged in the application body's flow tube which is the ink flow path on the application body side.

2. (original) The applicator according to claim 1, further comprising a joint tube having: an upper portion made up of a double tube that consists of an inner tube and an outer tube for ventilation and a lower portion made up of application body's flow tube such that the upper portion and the lower portion are integrally formed with each other; an

ink connecting opening which opens from the outside circumference of the outer tube for ventilation toward the inside of the inner tube; and a ventilation annulus formed by combination of the inner wall of the outer tube for ventilation and the outer wall of the inner tube for allowing the inside of the outer tube and the outside circumference of the application body's flow tube to communicate with each other, except in the ink connecting opening.

3. (canceled).

4. (currently amended) The applicator according to claim 2, wherein a portion with a strong capillary action and a portion with a weak capillary action are formed in the opening of said ink connecting opening provided in said joint tube by shaping the opening in such a manner as to decrease the area of the transverse section of the opening from its outside circumference toward its inside circumference or providing the opening with a concavo-convex portion that creates a wide-clearance portion and a narrow-clearance portion on its inner circumference wall.

5. (currently amended) The applicator according to claim 1, wherein a portion with a strong capillary action and a portion with a weak capillary action are formed in the opening of said ink connecting opening provided in said joint

tube by shaping the opening in such a manner as to decrease the area of the transverse section of the opening from its outside circumference toward its inside circumference or providing the opening with a concavo-convex portion that creates a wide-clearance portion and a narrow-clearance portion on its inner circumference wall.